

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 27, 2015*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities. The roots of this historic Act date back to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It began in towns and cities across the United States. It began with parents, families and friends of those living with disabilities challenging the societal barriers that excluded their fellow Americans from fair employment, access to public services and deserved accommodations.

Over the decades, the disability rights movement continued to grow and gain momentum. When ADA was enacted on July 26, 1990, it was regarded as a momentous bill that would break down barriers to education, employment and technology—and it has not disappointed. The Americans with Disabilities Act has markedly increased the quality of life for the over 55 million people living with a disability in the United States today. The ADA is viewed as responsible for a 75% increase in access to public facilities and transportation services for people with disabilities. In fact, over 20 cities across the United States including Boston, Massachusetts now use rail systems that are accessible to people with disabilities.

The ADA has also given greater voice to those faced with mental and physical challenges. This law requires that people with disabilities be given access to a right that every American is constitutionally guaranteed, the right to vote. Between 1996 and 2004, implementation of the ADA increased voter turnout amongst the men and women with disabilities by 10% compared to an overall increase of only 2%.

While a significant disparity in income and poverty rates remains for those living with disabilities, the Americans with Disabilities Act was a historic stepping stone that has decidedly improved the lives of millions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating this 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in recognizing the importance of this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED WILLIAM H. "COTTON" BYROM

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 27, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved William H. "Cotton" Byrom. Cotton was a friend and a lifelong resident of the Gulf Coast, a successful business owner, and a leader in civil society. All of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Born and raised in Milton, Florida, Cotton graduated from Milton High School in the midst of World War II, and, at the age of 17, he answered the call of duty, serving with honor and distinction in the Navy during the war. Following his military service, Cotton attended Florida State University, cementing a passion for FSU football that would continue for the rest of his life. At FSU, Cotton displayed the leadership skills that would come to be a hallmark of his service to Northwest Florida, serving as founding president of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

After receiving his degree in finance, Cotton returned to his beloved Milton, starting the Byrom Insurance/Real Estate Agency, which he led for nearly four decades. Despite the rigors of running a successful small business, Cotton was also dedicated to serving the people of Milton, and this commitment to service saw him elected to various important positions. Among the many offices he held, Cotton served as Mayor of Milton, City Police Director, and City Judge, and he also served a term in the Florida Legislature. Cotton also served in many other capacities, including more than 30 years on the Board of Directors for SunTrust Bank, nearly 20 years as Chairman of the Santa Rosa Beach Administration, and more than a decade as Santa Rosa County Civil Defense Director. In addition, Cotton was a member of the "Coffee Crew," which gathered at 9:00 a.m. each morning in Milton to discuss politics and current affairs. When I attended, I always enjoyed visiting with Cotton and was deeply humbled to receive his counsel and guidance.

Cotton was also a deeply religious man and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church. In fact, as a child, Cotton began saving the money that he earned to help rebuild the church following a fire that destroyed the church in 1932.

To some, Cotton Byrom will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and patriot, who answered the call during one of our Nation's toughest hours and came back home to continue leading and serving the people of Northwest Florida; to others he will be remembered as a successful businessman and civic leader; to his friends and family he will best be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life and legacy of William H. "Cotton" Byrom. My wife Vicki and I send our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Geraldine "Geri" Byrom; four daughters: Priscilla (Pete) Sanstead, Barbara (Terry) Johnson, Jennifer (Alan) Byrom; Julie (Guy) Byrom; grandchildren: Betsy Cooley, Leslie (Josh) Sparr, Tyler Sparr, Caroline Sanstead, and Gracie Stewart; great-grandchildren: Sarah Cooley, Brooke Baker, William Baker, Ben White and Jayden White; stepchildren, Matt (Tonya) Lawrence and Laura (Shaine) Garrison; step-grandchildren: Seth Lawrence, Grant Garrison, Colin Garrison and Emma Garrison; nephew, Jack (Betty) Williamson; special relative, Paul (Laurie) Green; and the entire Byrom family.

### TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MORRISON

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 27, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Morrison of Creston, Iowa for being named the Class 3A Region 2 Coach of the Year by the Iowa Football Coaches Association.

With a record of 10–3 the Panthers finished the season second place in their district, earning their first berth to the class 3A state football playoffs after beating first place Dallas Center-Grimes in the district championship. Coach Morrison displayed a knack for leading these young men and rallying them around a single goal. Although they fell short of the ultimate goal, this team, and their coaching staff, had an excellent season and deserve to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I stand here today and recognize Coach Morrison for his accomplishments. It is role models like Brian that help mold our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

### SPECIAL ORDER ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 23, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleagues, Congressmen VARGAS and COLLINS in this Special Order regarding international religious freedom.

As the daughter of Assyrian and Armenian immigrants who fled the slaughter of Middle East Christians in the early 1900's, the importance of religious freedom is interwoven into the history of my family.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.